participating in International Trade Fairs, inviting potential buyers and providing financial assistance to exporters for improving quality, packaging, brand promotion of products and for conducting market surveys.

Export target for agricultural and allied commodities

1997. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have fixed an export target for the export of agricultural and allied commodities during the year 1994-95;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps are being taken by Government to encourage export of agricultural commodities and processed foods from the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) No targets for the export of agricultural items have been fixed. The policy of the Government is to encourage export of agricultural and allied commodities keeping in view domestic availability and requirements.

(b) Steps taken to encourage export of agricultural commodities and processed foods include, *inter-alia,* simplification of inspection procedures, removal of Minimum Export Price and Quantity restrictions on selected items, provision of concessional credit, product development to meet international needs, extension of benefits available under the scheme of ECUs/EPZs to agriculture sector and permitting 50% sale in the domestic tariff area, lowering of custom duties on various items required by the processed food industries, encouraging export of value added items and enhancing quality and productivity, provision of assistance to exporters for purchase of specialised transport units, establishment of precooling facilities with proper air-handling systems, improved packaging, strengthening of quality control, promoting export of identified products through brand promotion campaigns, arranging byer-seller meets and participation in international fairs/ exhibitions.

Trade with China, USA and Russia

1998. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of trade undertaken with China, USA and Russia during the last three years; and

(b) the number of trade delegations exchanged between India and the aforesaid countries during this period to promote international trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The details of the trade undertaken with China, USA and Russia are as follows:—

(Rs. in Crores)

Year	China		USA		Russia	
	Export	Import	Export	Import	Export	Import
1991-92	119	53	7201	4917	4043	1796
1992-93	409	737	10183	6219	1756	737
1993-94	875	945	13256	8584	2037	1193
1994-95 (Upto Sept.)	366	1072	7631	4001	1110	733

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Foreign exchange earnings from exports

1999. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the foreign exchange earnings from exports during the last three years;

(b) whether the target fixed for exports have been achieved by Government;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to increase the exports of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) India's exports during the last three years were as follows:—

Year	Exports (US$ Million)
1991-92	17865
1992-93	18537
1993-94	22238

(b) and (c) No export target was set for 1991-92. The export target for 1992-93 was not met due to decline in trade with the CIS and other East- European countries; recession in industrially advanced countries; and domestic factors such as, disturbances in some parts of the country in the aftermath of Ayodhya incident. The target set for 1993-94 was achieved when export grew by 20 percent.

(d) Export promotion is a continuous process and steps are taken to boost exports in consultation with trade, industry and other relevant interests. Govt. has taken a number of steps to make the environment of policies and procedures more export-friendly. The measures include grant of Income Tax exemption on export profits, access to cheaper export credit designated in convertible currency and assistance to Export Promotion Councils/Commodity Boards for export market development.

Impact of Dunkel Proposals

2000. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of impact of Dunkel Proposals on Indian Agriculture subsidies, level of import content in consumption, scrapping of public distribution system, intellectual property rights and seed patenting;

(b) the reaction of Government in respect of each of the items mentioned above; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to ameliorate their adverse impacts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) India has not undertaken any reduction commitments in respect of the domestic support to agriculture, nor has it taken any commitment on minimum market access. Thus the agreement does not affect our policies and programmes for the development of agriculture. The public distribution system also remains unaffected. No legislation on plant variety protection has yet been put in place. On patents there is a ten year transition period for the introduction of a full patents regime and there is no immediate economic impact.

The Uruguay Round results on the whole would be advantageous to us in increasing our exports.

Export of Indian products to countries needing credit facilities

2001. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the possibility of exporting Indian products to countries which have